

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

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To require the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation, to establish a task force to develop and implement strategies to deter, prevent, and combat the theft and trafficking of catalytic converters and other automobile parts that contain precious metals targeted by thieves.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 20, 2023

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To require the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation, to establish a task force to develop and implement strategies to deter, prevent, and combat the theft and trafficking of catalytic converters and other automobile parts that contain precious metals targeted by thieves.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Catalytic Converter
5 Theft Task Force Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. TASK FORCE TO COMBAT CATALYTIC CONVERTER**
2 **THEFT.**

3 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) COVERED AUTOMOBILE PARTS.—The term
5 “covered automobile parts” means catalytic con-
6 verters and other automobile parts that contain pre-
7 cious metals targeted by thieves.

8 (2) STATE.—The term “State” means any
9 State of the United States, the District of Columbia,
10 the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and any territory
11 or possession of the United States.

12 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Attorney General, in
13 consultation with the Secretary of Transportation, shall
14 establish a task force to develop and implement strategies
15 to deter, prevent, and combat the theft and trafficking of
16 covered automobile parts (referred to in this section as the
17 “Task Force”).

18 (c) MEMBERSHIP.—The Task Force shall be com-
19 posed of 11 members, of whom—

20 (1) 3 shall be appointed by the Attorney Gen-
21 eral from among employees of the Criminal Division
22 of the Department of Justice;

23 (2) 2 shall be appointed by the Secretary of
24 Transportation from among employees of the Na-
25 tional Highway Traffic Safety Administration; and

1 (3) 6 shall be appointed by the Attorney Gen-
2 eral from among representatives of State or local
3 law enforcement agencies.

4 (d) CHAIR; VICE CHAIR.—The Attorney General shall
5 select—

6 (1) a chair from among the members of the
7 Task Force appointed under subsection (c)(1); and

8 (2) a vice chair from among the members of the
9 Task Force appointed under subsection (c)(3).

10 (e) DUTIES.—The Task Force shall—

11 (1) assess existing laws, regulations, and law
12 enforcement practices and resources related to the
13 theft and trafficking of covered automobile parts;
14 and

15 (2) make recommendations to Congress, the At-
16 torney General, the Secretary of Transportation, and
17 State and local law enforcement agencies on legisla-
18 tive, regulatory, and law enforcement reforms to de-
19 velop and implement strategies to deter, detect, pre-
20 vent, solve, and prosecute the theft and trafficking
21 of covered automobile parts.

22 (f) POWERS.—

23 (1) TASK FORCE.—The Task Force may hold
24 such hearings, sit and act at such times and places,

1 take such testimony, and receive such evidence as
2 the Task Force considers advisable.

3 (2) MEMBERS.—A member of the Task Force
4 may, with the authorization of the Task Force, take
5 any action that the Task Force is authorized to take
6 under this section.

7 (g) OPERATING RULES AND PROCEDURES.—

8 (1) MEETINGS.—

9 (A) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 30
10 days after the date on which a majority of
11 members of the Task Force have been ap-
12 pointed, the Task Force shall hold an initial
13 meeting.

14 (B) SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS.—After the
15 initial meeting under subparagraph (A), the
16 Task Force shall meet not less frequently than
17 once every 90 days.

18 (2) VOTING.—Each member of the Task Force
19 shall have 1 vote.

20 (3) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The Task Force may
21 make a recommendation under subsection (e)(2)
22 only upon a majority vote.

23 (4) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of
24 the Task Force shall constitute a quorum, but a

1 lesser number of members may hold meetings, gath-
2 er information, and review draft reports.

3 (h) REPORTS.—

4 (1) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 90 days
5 after the date on which a majority of the members
6 of the Task Force have been appointed, the Task
7 Force shall submit an initial report on its composi-
8 tion, activities, and planned activities to—

9 (A) Congress;

10 (B) the Attorney General; and

11 (C) the Secretary of Transportation.

12 (2) INTERIM REPORT.—Not later than 1 year
13 after the date on which the Task Force is estab-
14 lished under subsection (b), the Task Force shall
15 submit an interim report on its legislative, regu-
16 latory, and law enforcement recommendations to—

17 (A) Congress;

18 (B) the Attorney General;

19 (C) the Secretary of Transportation; and

20 (D) the attorney general of each State.

21 (3) PERIODIC UPDATES.—The Task Force shall
22 provide periodic updates to Congress on its activities
23 and planned activities.

24 (4) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 18 months
25 after the date on which the Task Force is estab-

1 lished under subsection (b), the Task Force shall
2 submit a final report on its legislative, regulatory,
3 and law enforcement recommendations to—

4 (A) Congress;

5 (B) the Attorney General;

6 (C) the Secretary of Transportation; and

7 (D) the attorney general of each State.

8 (i) TERMINATION.—The Task Force shall terminate
9 on the date that is 18 months after the date on which
10 the Task Force is established under subsection (b).

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